started the purchase of raw jute till the 10th July, 1985 even after the jute season has set in;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the statutory minimum price of raw jute has not been announced till the 10th July, 1985 even after raw jute has started arriving in the market and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) to (c) The Jute Corporation of India is primarily responsible for procuring raw jute from the growers when the ruling price touches the statutory minimum level. It also undertakes commercial procurement operations, backed by agreements with jute mills, mainly in the public sector undertakings. There was no occasion to start any such operation till 10 July, 1985.

The minimum support price for W.5 grade of raw jute in Assam for 1985-86 was announced in the middle of June. The notification regarding the prices of different varieties of jute and mesta, calculated in the light of the relative market differentials in various up country markets and also in Calcutta was made on 9 July, 1985.

Reconstitution of the Board of Steel Authority of India Limited

800. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to reconstitute the Board of Steel Authority of India Limited;

(b) whether Government also propose to include experts from Tata Iron Steel Company Limited and other private sector companies in the Board; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) to (c) It is proposed to reconstitute the Board of Directors of Steel Authority of India Limited so as to include persons of standing in the field of industrial Management. The composition of the restructured Board will be decided in due course.

Ash content in coking coal

801. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that average ash content of Indian coking coal delivered to the steel plants has risen from around 19 per cent to 24 per cent in the last six years:

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and to what extent it has affected the production in the steel plants; and

(c) what remedial measures are being taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) The ash content of coking coal supplied to steel plants has shown increase in respect of some washeries and decrease in respect of some others

respect of some other during the last six years as indicated below: There has been district improvement in 1984-85 as compared to 1983-85:

Washery	Ash percentage in washed Coal in CIL Washeries as analysed at the Steel Plants					
	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
Dugda-I	22·1	23·4	22·2	22·1	22·9	22·1
Dudga-II	22·4	23·1	22·3	22·7	23·0	22·2
Bhojudih	19·1	19·7	20·5	21·0	21·8	21·1
Patherdih	22·1	22·2	22·7	22·1	22·6	22·5
Sudamdih	Nil	18·8	19·8	20·7	21·4	21·5
Mooridih	..	..	..	..	17·8	18·6
Barora	..	..	..	..	19·9	20·3
Kargali	18·1	8·2	18·0	18·0	18·1	18·1
Kathara	19·6	19·3	18·8	19·3	18·6	19·1
Swang	20·0	20·4	18·9	18·6	18·2	19·2
Gidi	20·6	21·6	19·6	19·3	19·3	19·7

The increase in ash content of Coking Coal affects the productivity of the Blast furnaces but exact extent varies from Steel Plant to Steel Plant. However, generally it is stated that 1 per cent increase in ash content affects production of hot metal by about 3 per cent.

CIL have taken following remedial measures for improving the quality of coal delivered to the Steel Plants:—

1. Elimination of extraneous impurities in the feed coal and stringent quality control.

2. Elimination of offending sources of supply of raw coal feed which have been identified.

3. Better management of existing washeries assuring optimisation in performance levels.

4. Modernisation of existing washeries where necessary, assigning high priority.

5. Ensuring that the new washeries which have been commissioned and were proposed to be commissioned during the 7th Plan are operated to achieve designed leves of performance.

6. Introducing new technologies in coal beneficiation.

Purchase of machineries from private concerns by the Coal India Limited

802. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Coal India Limited is purchasing machineries from the private concerns when the Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation, Durgapur can supply these machineries; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT